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by Roscoe and Professor Smyth, of Cambridge, and thus concludes:—

"Freedom and Peace shall tell to many an age
Thy warning counsels, thy prophetic page:
Art, taught by thee, shall o'er the burning frame
The healing freshness pour and bless thy name:
And Genius, proudly, while to Fame she turns,
Shall twine thy laurels with the wreath of Burns."

Postscript.—The biography from which I have derived the greater part of my information was written by William Wallace Currie, who became a worthy son of his father. He had a successful career as a business man in Liverpool, and took an active part in public affairs. He interested himself on behalf of the Greeks (1824), he spoke in favour of the relaxation of the corn laws (1825), against negro slavery (1825 and 1828), in favour of Catholic emancipation (in 1827), in sympathy with the French (July 1830), in sympathy with the Irish in their distress in 1832. He was the first mayor of Liverpool under the Municipal Corporations Act (1835).

HENRY PARK OF LIVERPOOL: HIS LIFE, HIS WORK, HIS TRIUMPHS, HIS DEATH AND BURIAL

By FREDERICK W. LOWNDES, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A.

I am indebted to the late Mr F. D. Fletcher for the following history of Mr Henry or Harry Park, as he was usually called.

He was born in Water Street on the 2nd of March 1744. He was apprenticed at the age of fourteen to his uncle, Mr Bromfield, then one of the surgeons to the Infirmary, and remained with him for three years. During this period the war with France was going on, and the depôt here was crowded with French prisoners of war, whose medical treatment seems to have been left to Mr Park. He had at one time as many as six hundred under his charge, and by his

strict attention to their diet and to the sanitary conditions of the prison the rate of mortality was kept below the average of the general population. The kindness which Mr Park manifested to the prisoners secured for him their best gratitude, which they evinced by their gifts of multitudes of those little rough beads, the manufacture of which seems a necessary part of the existence of a prisoner of war.

After his Liverpool apprenticeship he went to London and worked for five years with Mr Percival Pott of St Bartholomew's, and afterwards spent a season at the Hôtel Dieu of Rouen, under the teaching of Monsieur le Cat. He then returned to this town, and commenced practice as a partner with Mr Allanson; and the following year, though not more than twenty-three years of age, he was appointed surgeon to the Infirmary.

In 1776 he married, and in order to get out of the rush and bustle of the town he removed to Basnett Street, now the noisiest and busiest of thoroughfares, not without some misgivings on the part of some of his more cautious friends as to the risk he ran in removing to such a distance from the busiest parts of the town. Thus far I have availed myself of Mr F. D. Fletcher's *History of Liverpool*, but it is now only right that I should give what was stated in the *Edinburgh Review*, October 1872, on Surgical Science, and which was quoted by Mr Reginald Harrison in his surgical address at the British Medical Association's Meeting, the late Dr Waters being President. "In the latter part of last century a vigorous flash of originality seemed to light up the annals of surgery. Park of the Liverpool Hospital may be said to have accomplished the first act of conservative surgery. His patient, a sailor, to whom the loss of a foot or leg would be tantamount to the loss of his means of getting bread, determined him to make the experiment of simply excising the diseased parts of the knee-joint, and retaining the foot and leg. This he did so successfully that, to use his own words, the patient several years after the operation made several

voyages to sea, in which he was able to go aloft with considerable agility, and to perform all the duties of a seaman; that he was twice shipwrecked, and suffered great hardship without feeling any in that limb. This was a great test of success that should have stamped the operation as one of the greatest surgical triumphs, but like many great strides in that age of extreme conservatism it was in advance of its fellows and was destined to be arrested for the better part of another half-century." For this it must be explained that, with one exception to be mentioned presently, Mr Park was not fond of using pen, ink, and paper. But for this we should have had more of his valuable experiences. Another trait in his character was his perfect horror of, and freedom from, any approach to exaggeration. As Mr Fletcher writes in his *Medical History of Liverpool*, "the claim of Mr Park to originality of design and priority of publication have never been disputed." He maintains, however, that Mr Felkin of Northwich had excised a knee-joint in 1762. The case was not published, and none heard of it till after the publication of the case of H. M'Laughlan.

Another of Mr Park's enterprises was the formation of a Medical Library, which originated in the gift of books by various individuals, and was kept first at the original Dispensary, then transferred to the Infirmary, and then to the Church Street Dispensary, from which it was removed to a room rented by subscription, in which Mr Park took the largest part, over one of the gateways of the Infirmary. Here it remained till a more fitting building was provided by a grant from the Corporation, in Lime Street; and this site having been occupied by the present London and North-Western Railway Station, it was finally deposited in the Medical Institution at the corner of Hope Street.

For thirty-one years he retained the office of surgeon to the Infirmary, and some years after engaged in another branch of practice perhaps not quite so laborious, but more annoying—that of gratuitous vaccination. Twice every week his house

was thronged by some half a hundred mothers and babies, somewhat to the disturbance of his private patients, who had to make their way as best they might through this body of infantry.

The Vaccine Institute of Liverpool owed its existence to his self-denying efforts. During nearly the whole of his practice Mr Park kept account of all the midwifery cases which he attended. This record, which he denominated his "Book of Genesis," is still preserved in the Medical Institution. It shows the names of the mothers, and the kind of labour, the date of attendance, and whether the fee was paid or not. The accuracy of this register has often supplied useful information as to births, which the imperfect parish registers of the period had failed to give. I can confirm this. In Mr Park's register I was able to trace my father's birth as having taken place in the year 1796. His mother's maiden name was Susannah Dobson. He was born at Edgehill and was brought up as a Unitarian, and his father's remains were buried in the graveyard of the ancient Chapel of Toxteth.

Apart from mere professional attractions Mr Park was held in the highest esteem. One who knew him well said: "Many men now living can remember him: his short round figure, and bright good-natured face, and his never-failing flow of good spirits." His constitution must have been of extraordinary vigour, for fatigue and cold, or heat and wet, seemed to make no impression on him. For most of his life he would only ride on horseback, and when he fell off, which he very often did, being a bad rider, it seems to have been his practice to go first to his patients, and afterwards to attend to any injury he might have sustained personally. A fall of this kind, however, put an end to his horsemanship. He fell from a horse in Cheshire, broke several ribs, walked a mile to his patient's house, nearly two miles back to the ferry, and then home, and, as might be expected, he was laid up for some time. After this he used a carriage. According to his own account, he had broken every bone in his body

except one arm and one head. Up to his seventy-fifth year he continued in the active exercise of his profession; at that age he retired, and lived at Wavertree, then a distant suburban village. In 1830 his health began to give way. His symptoms proved to be "scirrhus of the pylorus," and in this his last ailment—almost his only ailment—all that was most brave and kindly in his nature came out. As long as possible he concealed his sufferings from his friends and relatives, but, when the advances of the disease rendered it impossible, he found time adequately to arrange for the interests of his relatives; for the old servants who would be displaced when the master was gone, and his household broken up; and even for the horses and dogs, that they might be well treated when he was gone.

At last, after many weeks of suffering, borne with cheerful patience and Christian hope, he died on January 28th, 1831.

To this I may add that his mortal remains were laid in St James's Cemetery, in the north-east corner. There is a monument with the inscription: "The burial place of Henry Park, and of his children."

I may also state that early in last century, when he resided in Bold Street, which was then entirely occupied by large and handsome dwelling-houses, he was requested by a medical friend to accompany him to the Dingle, near the ancient Chapel of Toxteth. His friend had brought a carriage with him, and then told Mr Park that a duel was to be fought, and in the event of one of the combatants being injured his services would be required. Mr Park was much displeased, as duelling had been forbidden for some time previously. He declined to go any further, but waited in the town till the duel was over. It was in strict accordance with his honest principle all through life, which was to obey the laws of England.

THE LIFE OF MATTHEW DOBSON.

By FREDERICK W. LOWNDES, M.R.C.S. Eng.

I HAVE much pleasure in complying with the wish of the editor, that I should write the life of Dr Matthew Dobson. My late father was named Matthew Dobson (Lowndes) after him, and was born in Edgehill on the 11th of February 1796. The late F. D. Fletcher has left a very good account of the medical history of Liverpool as it was in his time. I have before me the first Liverpool Directory, for the year 1766. It is a very modest little volume of forty-six pages—a great contrast to the bulky volume which still bears the original name of Gore, bookseller. In this I find the following entries: "Dobson, Matthew, physician, Harrington Street." This street still remains, a narrow thoroughfare leading from Castle Street on its west, to North John Street on its east end. Many of the old houses remain as they were, being mostly the offices of solicitors, accountants, and other men of business. There are also the names of Lowndes, Charles, merchant, Water Street; Lowndes, Edward, tide-surveyor, Queen Street; Lowndes, Captain Francis, Drury Lane. I have already mentioned the name of Mr F. D. Fletcher as having written Dr Matthew Dobson's history. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society, and the son of a nonconformist minister in Yorkshire, and was originally destined for the ministry; but, finding Medicine more to his liking, he became a student in the medical school of Edinburgh, where he graduated. He commenced practice in Liverpool, and was appointed physician to the first Infirmary, which then stood in what has been called Shaw's Brow, now William Brown Street. His writings are principally to be found in the *Medical Observations and Inquiries*, and his papers on natural science in the *Philosophical Transactions*. To the former he contributed some experiments and observations on "Diabetes."